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GEOGRAPHIC MEMORANDUM

KARTOGRAPHISCHER DIENST DER NATIONALEN VOLKSARMEE HALLE
(CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICE OF THE EAST GERMAN ARMY)

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KARTOGRAPHISCHER DIENST DER NATIONALEN VOLKSARMEE HALLE

(Cartographic Service of the East German Army)

A. Location and Description

The headquarters of the Cartographic Service of the East German Army is located at Barbarastrasse 2, Halle/Seale. A Nationalen Volksarmee (NVA) Survey Unit located at Rottwerndorferstrasse, 10, Pirmas, performs related duties and is reported to be a branch office of the Cartographic Service. According to information of 1957 the Post Office Box number for the headquarters was "Halle 3910". No information is available on the telephone number.

The Cartographic Service is situated in the northwestern part of the NVA barracks area. The offices, two barracks blocks and one old garage, are fenced off from the other barracks in the complex and can be entered only from the Barbarastrasse on the northern side of the barracks area. A new building of four or five stores is to be constructed in 1959.

Information describing the buildings and their occupants is vague and scanty. It is reported that one of the buildings was extended on the east side during the period between the end of 1956 and September 1957. One of the buildings, variously reported as a one-or two-story building, contains the map printing shop, photographic workrooms, and photo-copy sections. Cartographic rooms, classified material rooms, and auxiliary offices have been reported as on the second floor. No definite information is available on the second building. The old garage

is reported to contain office materials in storage.

B. History

The Vermessungsdienst Sachsen-Anhalt, which was subordinate to the Ministry of Interior in Berlin, formerly occupied the buildings at Barbarastrasse. In 1954 the Vermessungsdienst was reorganized and those employees who were considered to be not very reliable politically were transferred to a new office on Am Markt in Halle. The buildings were taken over by a KVP Unit (Kasernierte Volkspolizei - Garrisoned Peoples Police). The best technicians, especially cartographers, were recruited from the former Vermessungsdienst and the new office was called "XXI KVP Dienststelle". The employees assigned to the KVP were civilians but all supervisory and staff functions were performed by KVP officers, many of whom had performed similar functions under the Vermessungsdienst Sachsen-Anhalt.

On July 1956 the XXI KVP Dienststelle was transferred to the Nationalen Volksarmee (NVA) and was given its present designation of Kartographischer Dienst.

C. Subordination

The Cartographic Service is an NVA service and as such is subordinated to the Chief of Staff, NVA, Berlin-Strausberg. A special department, "Topography", is staffed by one colonel, one major, and one 1st lieutenant who is authorized to give orders. Up to the end of 1956 Col. Wieder was the officer in the Ministry of Defense who was responsible for the Cartographic Service and he was well known for his periodic visits to the Cartographic Service.

D. Table of Organization

The Cartographic Service has been reported to employ 100 to 300 civilians of whom 40 per cent are women. Eight to 15 ~~SSA~~ personnel are also members of the staff.

The number of subdivisions in the organization seems to be unusually large for an organization with the number of employees and buildings reported. An accurate picture of the administrative structure is still not possible since an analysis of available reports provides only an unorganized listing of miscellaneous sections.

In the following tabulation an attempt has been made to reduce the subdivisions reported to a logical pattern of organization:

Commanding Officer of the Cartographic Service is a Major Walter ~~HEIMANN~~, and a Captain Herbert ~~KELLENBACH~~ is his Deputy. The Political Deputy is Major ~~SCHOPPE~~.

1. Administration is headed by Captain ~~HOEDMANN~~, who has 1 assistant.

a. Payroll Section employs 6 persons. Chief of the section is KVP Corporal or Sergeant Herman Martin.

b. SSD Office (~~Staatsicherheitsdienst~~) assignments are frequently rotated but the office is constantly occupied by 1 SSD man.

c. Norm Office. Guenter Gamsch is in charge.

d. Security Section. Hans Weise was in charge of 6 guards.

e. Planning (~~Planung~~), which plans the quarterly map production, employs 1 officer and 3 to 5 workers.

f. Research. The office has 1 officer and 2 or 3 workers.

g. Apprentice Shop is charged with the training of from 20 to 25 civilian apprentices. The chief of the section has been variously reported as Horst Conrad and Georg Haucke.

h. Personnel. O/Lt. Schepach and Lt. Wolfgang Schaefer have been reported as in charge. Reportedly, 1 man handles all questions.

1. Classified Documents Section (VS-Stelle) may be the same as Graded Documents Section or Classified Material Room. Chief of this section is an NMA M/Sgt., thought to be Rudolf Zaenker, who has 1 or 2 civilian workers. It is reported that Soviet original maps, classified as confidential material, have been stored here.

j. Labor Section has been in existence since January 1958. One man handles questions pertaining to working time, wage increases, etc.

k. Bookkeeping Section has 2 men and 3 women and takes care of all financial affairs of the Cartographic Service.

1. Telephone Central is run by 1 woman who receives phone calls from outside and provides connections to the various sections.

2. Cartography. The department is reported to employ 105 civilians.

a. Office of the Surveying Technician employs one man who is engaged in work dealing with all sorts of calculations required for maps. Chief of the section is (fmu) Geilalt.

b. Cartographic Sections. Three officers are assigned. U/Lt. Dieter Schubert is chief. Lt. Herbert Walther and Lt. Wolfgang Schaefer have been reported as assistant chiefs.

(1) One cartographic section is charged with the drawing of GDR maps, scale 1:25,000, as prepared by the correction section. This cartographic section employs 6 draftsmen.

(2) The second cartographic section also is charged with the drawing of GDR maps, scale 1:25,000, as prepared by the correction section and, in addition, frequently assists the retouching section with the retouching of diapositives of maps of Switzerland and the USSR. The section employed about 25 draftsmen and lithographers, when Herbert Dantschke was chief (1954).

(3) The Cartographic Correction Section is subordinate to the cartographic section. It is charged with the preliminary drawing of new GDR maps 1:25,000, and correction of proofs, i.e., recording new installations, roads, changes in roads or railroads, changing of signs and symbols. The section employed 4 cartographic draftsmen when Fritz Bechert was chief.

c. Lettering Section has 2 men and 5 women, who translate Russian text of Soviet maps into German and process it for maps that are in production. Two draftsmen were charged with the lettering of GDR maps at 1:25,000 when (fnu) Graf was supervisor (February 1955).

3. Editing Division, or Scientific and Technical Editors, is headed by 1 officer and 21 workers. Maps are checked for completeness and accuracy of all entries.

4. Technical or Printing Division.

a. Reproduction Photography

(1) Photographic Section is charged with the production of dispoitives of 1:25,000 maps that are being corrected. It employs 4 to 15 persons and may be the same as the Copying Section.

(2) Copying (Kopie) employs 12 workers.

(3) Retouching Section is charged with the retouching of diapositives and employed 8 to 25 workers, mostly lithographers, under 1 officer when Albert Schoenekase and Lothar Bertas were reported to be in charge.

b. Printing. The department is reported to employ approximately 75 persons.

(1) Type-Setting Shops. There are 2 type-setting shops; 1 is used for jobs being done by the "Typendruck" (type printing) method and is not constantly occupied. The second shop is used for jobs done by the "Photodruck" (photo printing) method and employs 2 to 7 workers and 1 officer. Richard Wenzlau was reported as chief in 1956.

(2) Paper Storage Room. Drawing and printing paper is stored in this room. The chief of the section (fnu) Henneberg, is the only employee and he is also charged with making analyses of paper (quality control).

(3) Print Shop is charged with the printing of all GDR maps, proofs and final prints, that are drawn or corrected in the Cartographic Service. The printing section reportedly works about 1 week out of each month, and maintains 2 shifts from 0600 to 1400 hours and from 1400 to 2200 hours, including Sunday. The section employs

an estimated total of 45 to 50 men and women and is administered by 1 officer, O/Lt. Rudolf Hein.

(4) Bindery. (Buchbinderei) - Employs 3 workers.

(5) Cutting

(6) Stock

(7) Packing or Shipping. The section is charged with the packing of all maps that are being sent to Berlin. It employs 10 workers. Chief of the Section is Lt. Rudolf Zaenker.

5. There are several sections which may conceivably be subordinate to one of the above. They are as follows: -

a. Orders Section is charged with the handling and forwarding of orders from Berlin. It is also responsible for the sending of maps and proofs to the Ministry of Interior. Chief of the section is Captain Herbert.

b. Dispatch or Shipping may be the same as the Order or Packing Section. Completed maps are sorted and packed. Maps not packed are stored for later shipment. The office employs 13 civilians.

c. File Section (Plankammer) or Archives (Archiv). In this section all work copies, proofs, copies of final prints and the cliches of maps are stored. All basic printing material remains in the archives. The section employs 2 or 3 persons under (fau) Fritz, who is chief.

d. V.S. Stelle may be the same as Graded Documents Section or classified material room. There are 2 workers here.

e. Graded Documents

f. Technical Control may be the same as Coordination Section. It employs 4 workers.

g. Coordination.

E. Personnel and Biographic Data - See Attachment 1

F. Production

The Cartographic Service has published topographic maps at 1:5,000; 1:10,000; 1:25,000; 1:50,000; 1:100,000; 1:200,000; 1:500,000, and 1:1,000,000. Up to March 1957 the office handled only maps at 1:25,000, after that date the work included maps at other scales. Maps of West Germany at 1:100,000 and 1:1,000,000 were produced. One report states that the organization produced German-language topographic maps of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and France. A report from another source states that diapositives of maps of Switzerland at 1:500,000 were retouched and diapositives of maps of the USSR at scales of 1:100,000, 1:200,000 and 1:500,000 were "worked on".

The scope of the Cartographic Service activities can be summed up as follows:

a. Production and distribution of the new 1:25,000 series on East Germany.

It is evident that the Cartographic Service assisted the civilian topographic mapping services in their conversion of the old 1:25,000 sheets to Soviet specifications. They redrafted and printed editions of several thousand copies. In addition they may have had the additional task of filling in the restricted military areas left blank on the 1:25,000 maps produced by the civilian mapping agencies.

The revision of the old cartographic data has been completed and the 1:25,000 series distributed. Between January and June 1958 the agency was mainly concerned with the preparation of maps covering the Czechoslovakia-Soviet Zone of Germany's border area. Czechoslovakian maps printed in 1955 had been furnished for that purpose. No information is available on the current program of the Cartographic Service in the reduction of the 1:10,000 into the new series of 1:25,000.

b. Production of 1:25,000 maps of West Germany.

Work on the 1:25,000 maps of West Germany is reported still in progress. Areas along the border of GDR were programmed to be done first and plans are to progress westward.

c. Production and distribution of the 1:100,000 map.

For the military use of the NVA, including the border troops, an old Deutsches Reich map at 1:200,000 was enlarged and distributed in a "Provisional Edition". No additional information is available.

d. Production of 1:200,000 and 1:500,000 maps.

A 1:200,000 and 1:500,000 series is reported in production. The 1:500,000 sheets are to be used as aircraft reporting charts. Reportedly, a completely new edition of a 1:500,000 general map is planned.

e. Geographic maps at 1:1,000,000 and 1:2,500,000. Preparatory work for these new editions is reported to have been started. A military atlas (Soviet style) is planned.

f. Production of operational maps and tactical-position maps.

For individual areas and reservations used by the military,

the Cartographic Service carries out special cartographic work. Great emphasis is placed on NVA training areas all over the DDR. For those training areas under Soviet Army control, map data is furnished to the chief of Staff/NVA by officers of the Soviet Army. Survey work is conducted by survey platoons of the NVA, and the Survey Unit at Pirna has surveyed numerous areas. The survey field records are sent to Halle and the Cartographic Service draws and prints the maps.

G. Printing

Printing equipment at the Cartographic Service consists of 2 offset presses for 2-color printing, each with a capacity of 4,000 to 5,000 sheets per hour, and 3 offset presses of like capacity for single-color printing.

Normally, topographic maps at 1:25,000 are printed at the Cartographic Service, although the Survey Unit, Pirna, has assisted in the production of this series. In 1998 it was reported that the Cartographic Service subcontracted a printing project to the VEB German Bond Printing Works, Leipzig.

Reports vary on the number of copies printed. The number ranges from 4,000 to 20,000. A run of 4,000 to 6,000 copies of each sheet would seem more logical.

There is no map warehouse in Halle/Saale and apparently the Cartographic Service has no map depot. As soon as an edition has been printed, the maps are packed and sealed. Finished maps are shipped to the Ministry of Defense, Berlin-Strausberg, by motor transport. There the Chief of

Staff/EVA distributes the maps to the troops or sends them to the NVA map depot at Strausberg. Only a few sheets, which are used as maintenance and library copies and are controlled by a strict classification system, remain in the Cartographic Service.

H. Supply

Map printing paper is believed to be obtained from a factory in Ritterfeld. It comes to the Service via the VEB Mitteldeutsche Druckerei in Halle. Ekalon sheet, a substitute for astralon (a plastic material used for the drafting of the final map sheet) is produced by a VEB plant in Wolfen.

I. Security

Very little information is available on the maintenance of security at the Cartographic Service. The available information dates back to June 1955 and may not be valid at this time.

The security group consists of 6 to 8 civilian employees who are uniformed in grey and armed with submachine guns. All first floor windows are protected by iron bars. The entrance to the building is guarded day and night by 2 guards. Each employee has a special pass with his photograph and the signature of the commanding officer. The passes must be validated every 3 months. They must be shown when entering and leaving the building. Visitors must ring an electric bell at the entrance door and wait for a guard to appear and conduct them to the guard room.

Material for drafting maps is stored overnight in the classified material room on the second floor. The door to this room is secured

with an iron grill. During the day a noncommissioned officer of the KVP is on duty in this room. When leaving at night, he double locks and seals the door with a wire and a plastic seal and turns in the sealing instrument to the security guards near the entrance of the building. The sealing instrument is similar to the metal stamp type; it is round, about 1 inch in diameter and has the letters "KVP" and the seal number on it. The offices of the commanding officer, assistant chief political officer, and the norm officer, and the photo workshop are locked in identical manner. Unauthorized personnel are prohibited from entering the photocopy and map printing section.

All employees have been required to submit statements, pledging not to divulge any information to outsiders, including their families. Employees are also required to submit personal history statements, including the names and addresses of all relatives and the names of three character witnesses. Furthermore, the cartographers are instructed to state their occupation as "technical employees", and to give evasive answers concerning the nature of their work to minimize inquisitive questions. The political officer frequently summons the employees to his office for an interview concerning their personal background and political attitude. All cabinets, safes and doors are locked up and sealed by the brigadiers and/or section chiefs at 1600 hours, i.e. after duty hours. Keys are turned in at the guard room. In the morning keys are picked up by the same personnel and all seals are removed. During non-office hours 1 guard patrols the hallways once every hour.